



July 2, 2019

Mayor Lee Brand
Fresno City Hall
2600 Fresno St.
Fresno, CA 93721

RE: Budget Allocation for Immigrant Advisory Committee

Dear Mayor Brand,

Board of Directors MFV

Executive Board

Marcelo Gaete, President
Gabriela Lemus, Treasurer
Maria Echaveste, Secretary

Board Members

Rocio Saenz
Jaime Casap
Diane Guerrero

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We, the undersigned community members and organizations, ask that you maintain the allocated \$300,000 toward the Immigrant Advisory Committee. The City of Fresno is fortunate to have a rich history that includes the presence of immigrants from all over the world. Their contributions, and those of their descendants, have enhanced the economy, society, culture and democratic life in Fresno, the Central Valley and the State of California. Nonetheless, important gaps exist in the City government's responses to the phenomenon of international migration, limiting the potential benefits to the city, region and state.

Each day, immigrants in our community face uncertainty and fear. This is particularly true in the wake of this Federal Administration's actions targeting all immigrants, including but not limited to legal permanent residents and naturalized U.S. citizens. This fear has negatively impacted thousands of lives, threatening to tear apart families, disrupt educational and vocational pursuits, and hurt local businesses and their workforce. The Immigrant Advisory Committee was established to address the needs of the immigrant community and advise the City Council on how best to do so.

The committee must be allowed to succeed, and that means providing the committee with the resources needed to achieve such endeavors.

The Immigrant Advisory Committee has the potential to bring about numerous benefits to Fresno residents in general. When the Immigrant Advisory Committee resolution passed, more than 25 local community leaders and organizations signed in support, showcasing the demand for this committee to exist and succeed. Our Fresno City Council recognizes the contributions of our immigrant community by making such an allocation and that for the committee to succeed this funding must be made available. We urge you to support the \$300,000 appropriation made by the Fresno City Council. Together, we can make Fresno a positive and equitable community for all.

Sincerely,

Samuel Molina
California State Director
Mi Familia Vota

Organizations:

- Myrna Martinez Nateras, Program director - American Friends Service Committee, Pan Valley Institute.
- California Pan Ethnic Health Network
- Eric Payne, Executive Director - Central Valley Urban Institute
- Jesus Martinez, Executive Director – Central Valley Immigrant Integration Collaborative (CVIIC)
- Margarita Rocha, Executive Director – Centro La Familia
- Sukaina Hussain, Outreach Director - Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR)
- Raul Moreno, Executive Director - Education and Leadership Foundation
- Michael Evans, Chair - Fresno County Democratic Central Committee
- Pao Yang, Executive Director – Fresno Center
- Reza Nekumanesh, Director - Islamic Cultural Center
- Cindy Liou, State Policy Director - Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)
- Naindeep Signh, Executive Director - The Jakara Movement
- Maggie Thao, Coordinator – Service Employees International Union United Healthcare Workers
- Maricela Gutierrez, Executive Director - Services, Immigrant Rights and Education Network (SIREN)

Individuals:

- America Hernandez
- Juan Arambula
- Josefa Vega
- Tom Hernandez

